



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT  
SECRETARY

December 27, 2005

MEMO TO: Don Lee, Berry Jenkins, Michael Taylor, Don Bernhoft, Jay Bennett, Shannon Sweitzer, Judith Corley-Lay, Stuart Bourne, Jonathan Bivens, Jennifer Brandenburg, Brian Webb, Dave Rankin and Dave Hurley

FROM: J. V. Barbour, P. E.  
State Project Services Engineer

SUBJECT: AGC/Roadway Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2005

The subject committee met on November 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in the Riverwood Conference Room at the Century Center with the following in attendance:

Victor Barbour	Steve DeWitt	Ellis Powell
Jay Bennett	Randy Garris	Norma Smith
Don Bernhoft	David Harris	Shannon Sweitzer
Jonathan Bivens	Berry Jenkins	Michael Taylor
Judith Corley-Lay	Emily McGraw	Brian Webb

The following items were discussed:

**1. CONSTRUCTION SURVEYING UTILITY INVESTIGATIONS**

This item relates to locating underground utilities and payment for exploratory excavation. Several industry members expressed the following concerns: Inconsistency among REs related to payment of exploratory excavation; liabilities of the surveyor when construction surveying is a contract requirement; and the surveyors having the means to pothole and locate underground utilities. These were discussed but no resolution was found. The Department is making a concerted effort to gather SUE data during design and show that information on the plans in order to avoid having these issues arise during the construction phase. It was decided to invite Charlie Brown of Location & Surveys Unit to the next meeting to further discuss the SUE data being acquired and the use of that data to benefit all involved.

## **2. CONTRACTOR OBTAINING ELECTRICAL SERVICES FOR LIGHTING SIGNALS**

The Industry indicated that they continue to have problems obtaining electrical services from certain utility companies. It has taken as long as 10 months resulting in projects running beyond the completion date and liquidated damages being assessed. The Industry solicited the Department's assistance and suggested that perhaps the Department could arrange a meeting with utility owners to discuss this.

## **3. PAYMENT FOR STORED MATERIALS ON DESIGN-BUILD PROJECTS**

The Industry advised that on a specific design build project, the payment was paid, then reversed, then repaid and told it would not be paid again. What is the Department's policy on storing materials on Design Build projects?

The Department sent a memo out stating that stored materials on design build projects could be paid.

The Industry said there was an issue of the title of materials and suggested that Division One of the Specifications be rewritten specifically for Design Build projects to clarify the schedule of values.

## **4. PAVEMENT ALTERNATIVES**

The Department said that it would be offering pavement alternatives as a way of doing business. An example would be aggregates and black base. The Department invited the Industry to make suggestions on other alternates. One suggestion from the Industry was to offer structural steel bridge and prestress concrete bridge as Pennsylvania does.

## **5. 2006 SPECIFICATIONS**

The Department announced that the draft *2006 Specifications Book* was available on-line for review. Please send comments to Berry electronically by November 15.

The *2006 Specifications* and *Standards* will be effective with the July 2006 letting. The plan is to distribute to the designers by February 1, 2006 and then a notice would be sent with the Invitation to Bid as to when the book and standards would be available for sale.

The draft *Major Changes Booklet* for the *2006 Specifications Book* was distributed.

## **6. UPDATE ON ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF VEGETATION IN NATURAL CHANNELS**

As an alternate, the Department introduced a composite blanket for use at on-site stream mitigation site. It consists of a 2-inch organic material, with a dark color that absorbs heat that speeds up germination. It acts like a sponge to absorb water. A beneficial use for this material would be using it in a site that needs to be vegetated quickly. However, seeding and mulching would be 2-3 times less expensive. The use of this product meets approval of the Corps and DWQ as long as there is no municipal waste. Industry suggested that the Department consider off-site mitigation, especially in cross drain locations. The Department is trying to avoid on-site mitigation in these locations because of problems encountered. The Industry also requested that the Department develop a more detailed approval process of when vegetation is established so that water can be placed in the new channel.

## **7. EROSION CONTROL PAY ITEMS FOR CULVERT PHASING**

As a follow-up to this issue from the last meeting, the Department met on October 10 and discussed payment for diversions of water for pipe installations. Various options were introduced and it was concluded that the best option was to require the contractor to use one of the methods outlined in the Best Practices Manual (BMP) developed by the Department, and still have payment included in the price of the pipe. The Department felt that this approach would allow the contractor to use the most economical approach at each location. The Industry has concerns with this approach, particularly if the Department will not accept the method the contractor chooses. The Department understands those concerns and will consider whether to make any changes.

## **8. MEETING DATES UPDATE FOR 2006**

The meetings for 2006 will be at 10:00 a.m. on the following dates in the Riverwood Conference Room (formerly called Project Services Large Conference Room).

February 22	August 16
April 19	October 18
June 28	December 20

You may want to reserve all day for the meeting in case it runs long, or there is a need to make a field trip in the afternoon.

C: Steve DeWitt, PE  
Art McMillan, PE  
Randy Garris, PE  
David Harris, PE  
Ellis Powell, PE  
Emily McGraw, PE  
Charlie Brown, PE  
Norma Smith